

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 AGR-10 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00

DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07

FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /153 W

-----172237Z 038434 /75

R 171004Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2224

UNCLAS BANGKOK 10672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: KRIANGSAK COMMENTS ON US-THAI, US-SEA RELATIONS

1. UPON HIS RETURN TO THAILAND MAY 16, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER GEN. KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN HELD A FORTY-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE BANGKOK AIRPORT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON US-THAI RELATIONS AND US INTEREST IN SEA.

2. GEN. KRIANGSAK SAID THAT HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS THAT HE MET DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. ASSURED HIM THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENTS TO THAILAND UNDER THE MANILA PACT AND THE THANAT-RUSK AGREEMENT. WHILE THE U.S. WILL CEASE GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND AFTER THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO FURNISH ECONOMIC AID AS WELL AS MILITARY AID IN THE FORM OF LONG-TERM CREDITS.

3. GEN. KRIANGSAK SAID THAT THE U.S. MAINTAINS A VERY KEEN INTEREST IN SEA, ESPECIALLY IN THE NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION, DESPITE REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY. THE U.S. IS STILL INTERESTED IN HONORING ITS OBLIGATIONS TO HER
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ALLIES IN SEA. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING, PERHAPS AS CONSULTANTS, IN THE UPCOMING ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING TO BE HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR THIS AUGUST. HE SAID THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS FORCES IN SEA AND THE PACIFIC, "AS THIS HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED BY MR. VANCE AND MR. HOLBROOKE." PRAISING CONTINUED U.S.

INTEREST IN THAILAND, KRIANGSAK SAID, "WE CANNOT FIND A BETTER FRIEND THAN THE U.S."

4. GEN. KRIANGSAK SAID THAT HE HAD APOLOGIZED TO THE U.S. LEADERS FOR THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE U.S. DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS PRIOR TO THE OCT. 6 COUP. HE CONTINUED THAT HE SUGGESTED TO THE U.S. LEADERS THAT MORE CONTACT BE MADE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE ANNOUNCED THAT "NEXT MONTH A GROUP OF SENIOR ASIAN EXPERTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT THAILAND."

5. EMBASSY WILL REPORT A TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE NOW BEING TRANSLATED BY USIS.
WHITEHOUSE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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